

# Cryptography Intro

CS642:

Computer Security

Spring 2019



# AWS Urges Devs To Scrub Secret Keys From GitHub

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[timothy \(36799\)](#) posted 2 hours ago | from the [key-is-under-the-mat](#) dept.

An anonymous reader writes "GitHub contains thousands of 'secret keys', which are stored in plain text and can be used by miscreants to access AWS accounts and either run up huge bills or even delete/damage the users files. [Amazon is urging users of the coding community site to clean up their act.](#)"

# Cryptography



Basic goals and setting

TLS (HTTPS)

Provable security

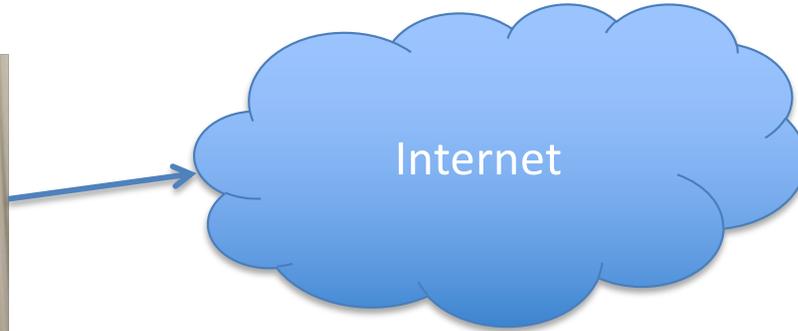
One time pad

Block ciphers

# Cryptography: “Hidden writing”

- Study and practice of building security protocols that resist adversarial behavior
- Blend of mathematics, engineering, computer science

# Cryptography Example

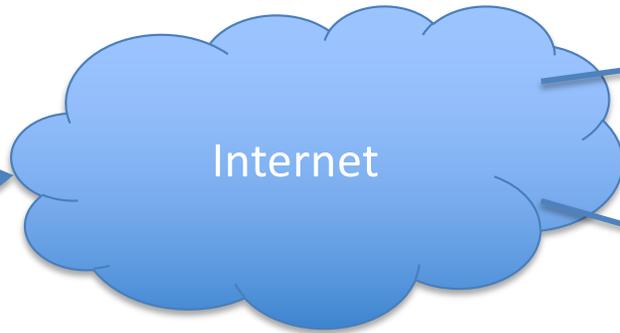


US  
diplomatic  
cables

Don't want to reveal data early

Want to store it in way that it  
can quickly be revealed later

# Cryptography Example



```
01101010
10101010
10101010
11111101
```

```
01101010
10101010
10101010
11111101
```

Don't want to reveal data early

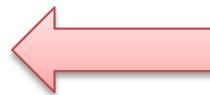
Want to store it in way that it can quickly be revealed later

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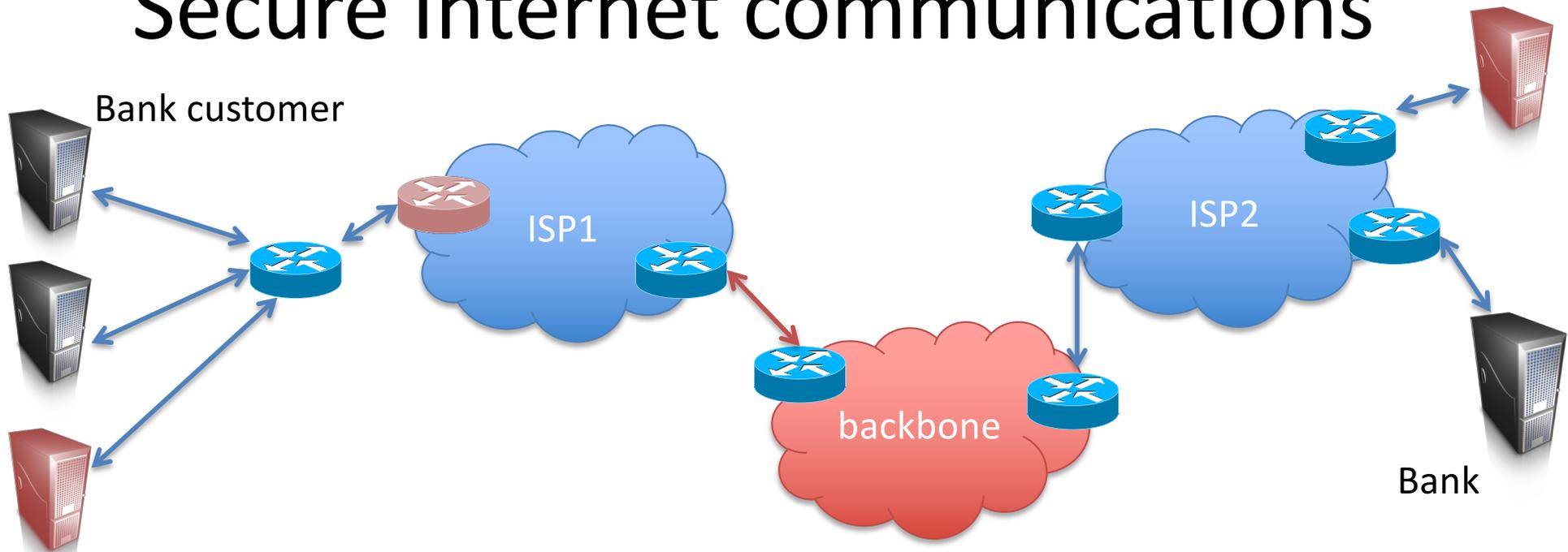


Modern cryptography enables this:

- Encrypt file
- Store key in secure place



# Crypto Example 2: Secure Internet communications



Customer and bank want to communicate securely:

- **Confidentiality** (messages are private)
- **Integrity** (accepted messages are as sent)
- **Authenticity** (is it the bank? is this the customer?)
- Sometimes: anonymity (hide identities)
- Sometimes: steganography (hide that communication took place)

TLS, SSH, IPsec, PGP

# Encrypted hard drives



Corporate intellectual property  
Customer financial records  
Personal notes

Encrypt hard drives or individual files

- Confidentiality
- Even if attacker has physical access to device

Bitlocker, TrueCrypt, OSX, iOS, Seagate

example 3

# Crypto

- Powerful tool for confidentiality, authenticity, and more
- But:
  - must design securely
  - must implement designs securely
  - must use properly (e.g., key management)

# Auguste Kerckhoffs' (Second) Principle

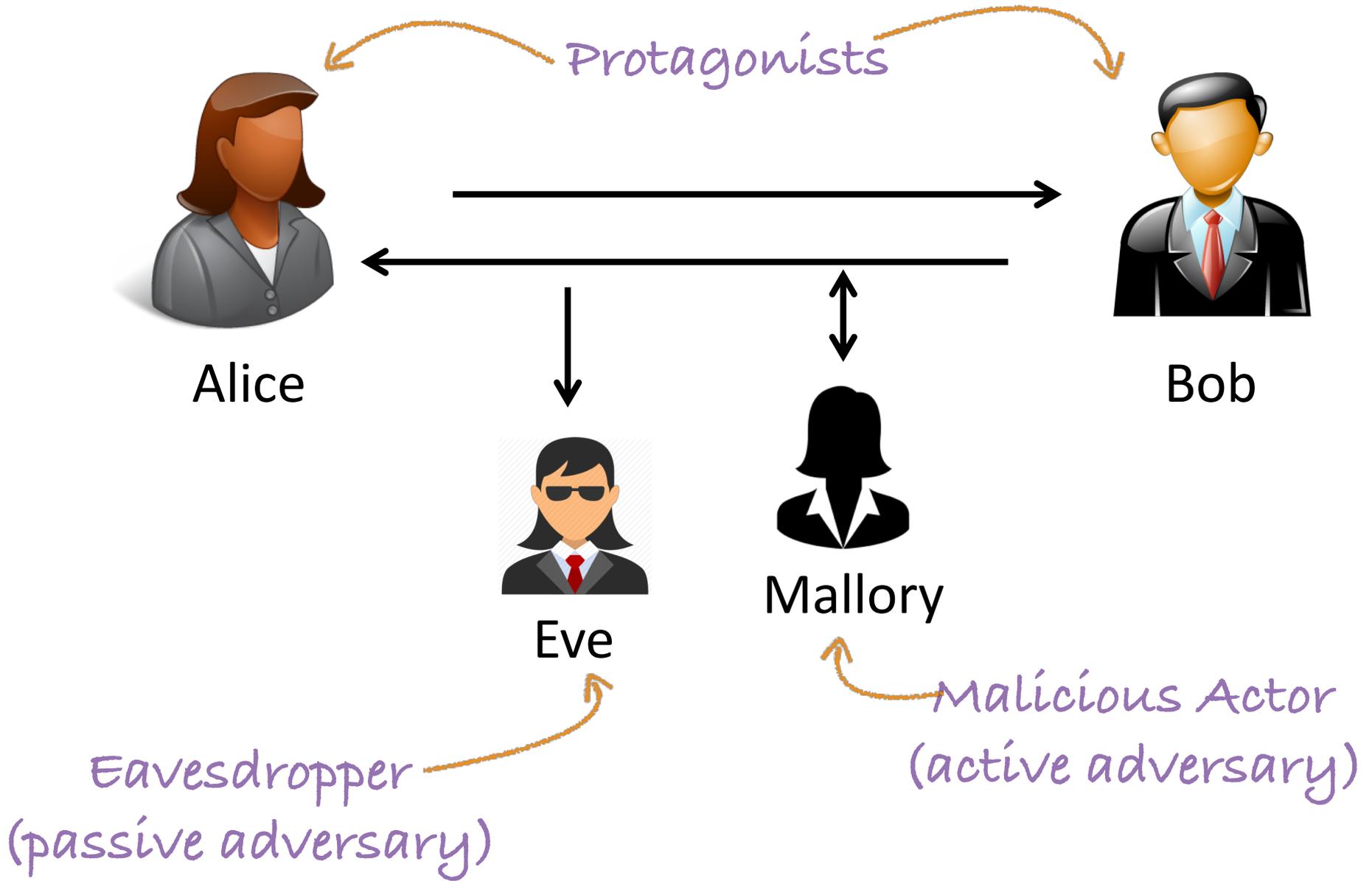
“The system must not require secrecy and can be stolen by the enemy without causing trouble”

A cryptosystem should be secure even if its algorithms, implementations, configuration, etc. is made public --- the only secret should be a key

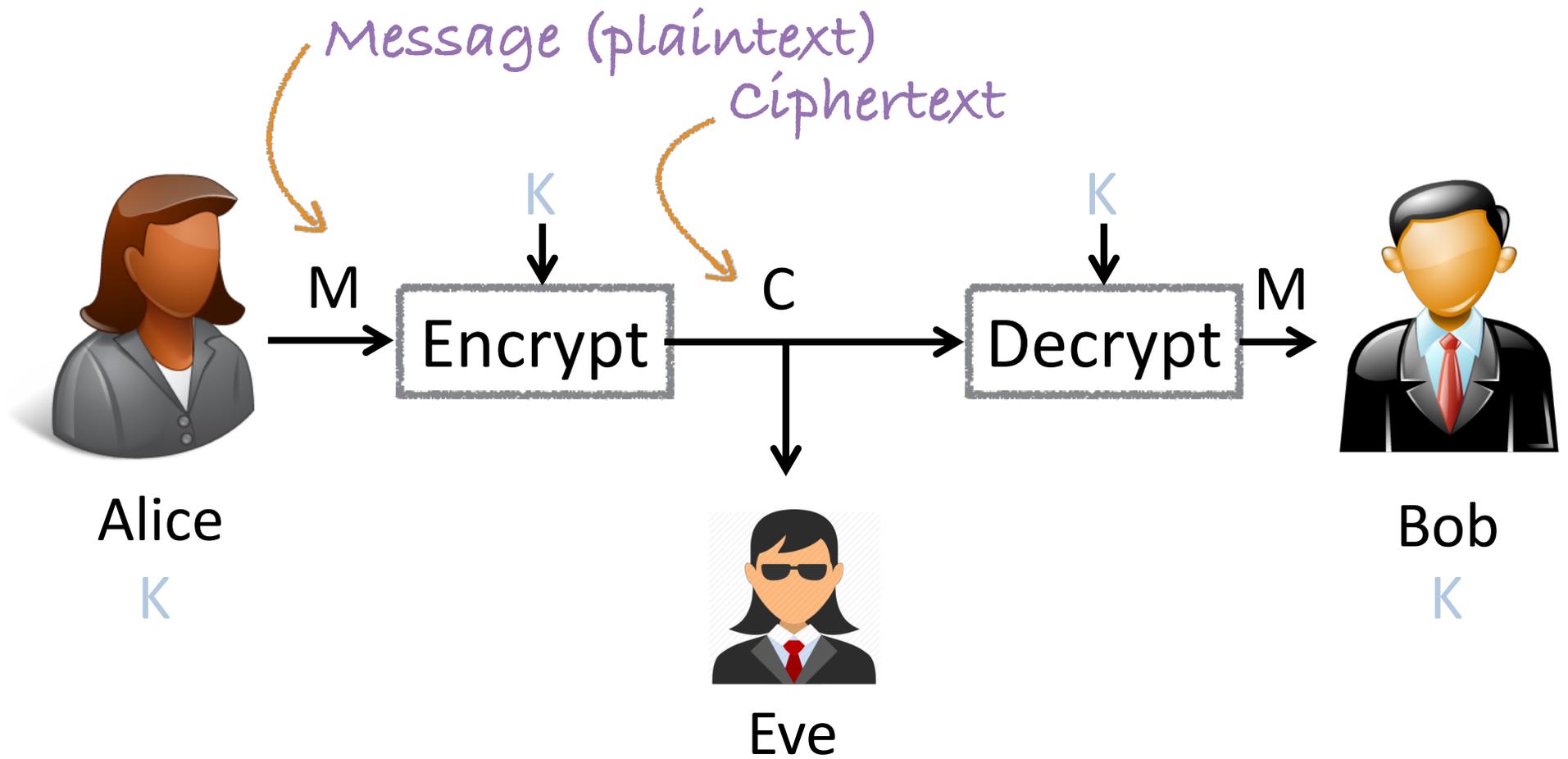
Why?

# primitives

- Encryption
  - confidentiality
  - symmetric + asymmetric versions
- Message authentication codes
  - integrity, authentication
  - symmetric
- Digital signatures
  - integrity, authentication
  - asymmetric
- Key exchange



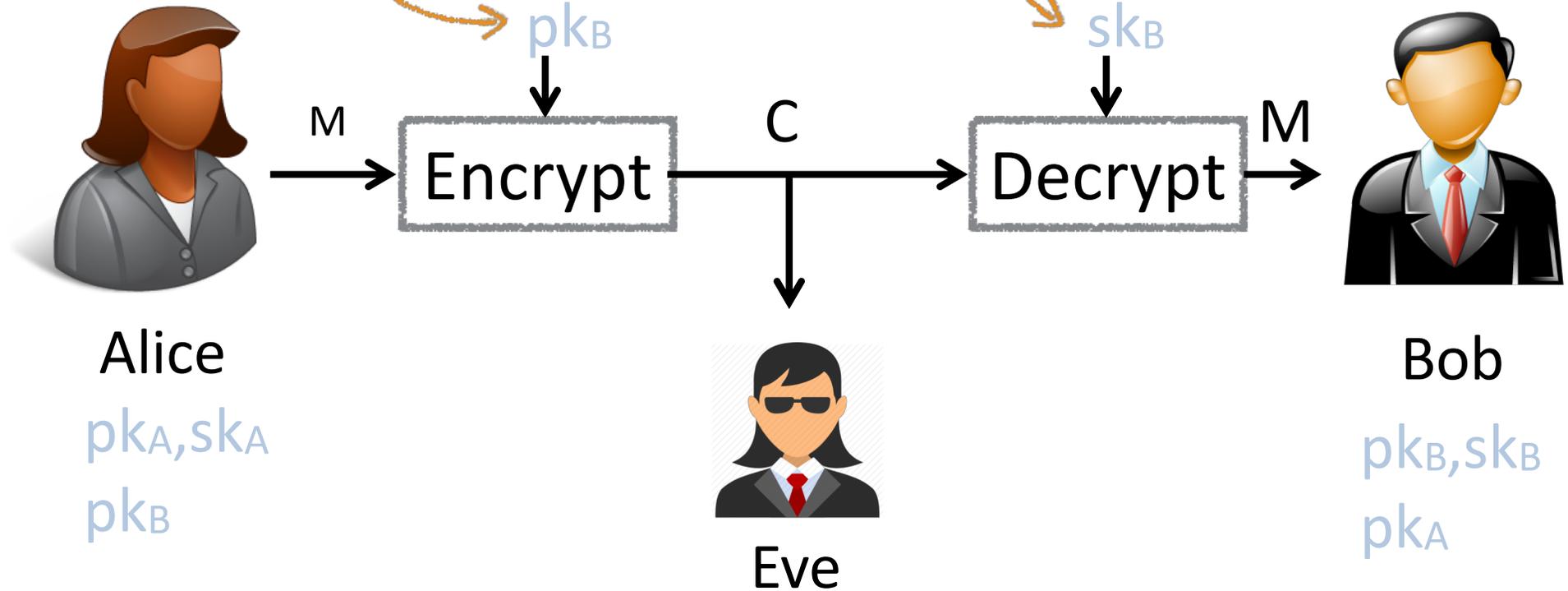
conventions



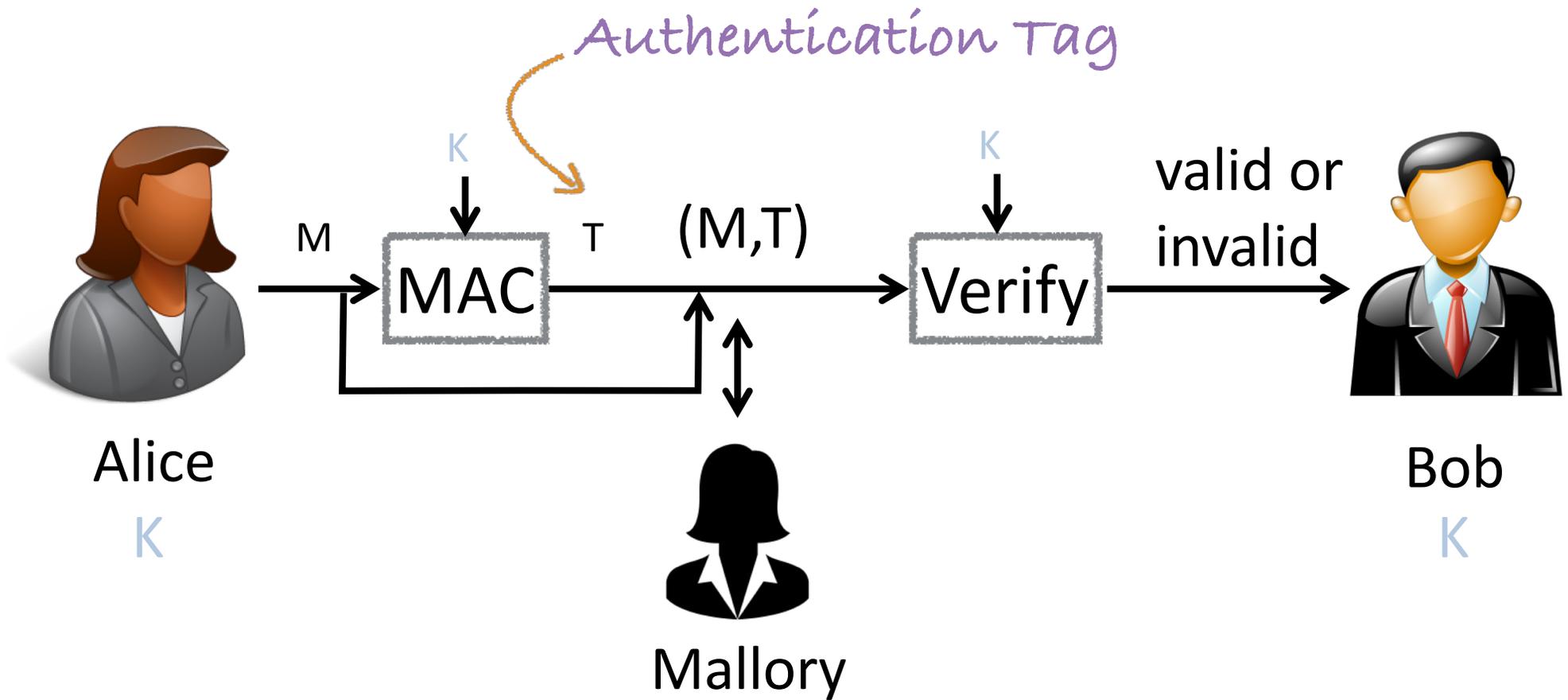
symmetric encryption

Bob's public key

Bob's secret key

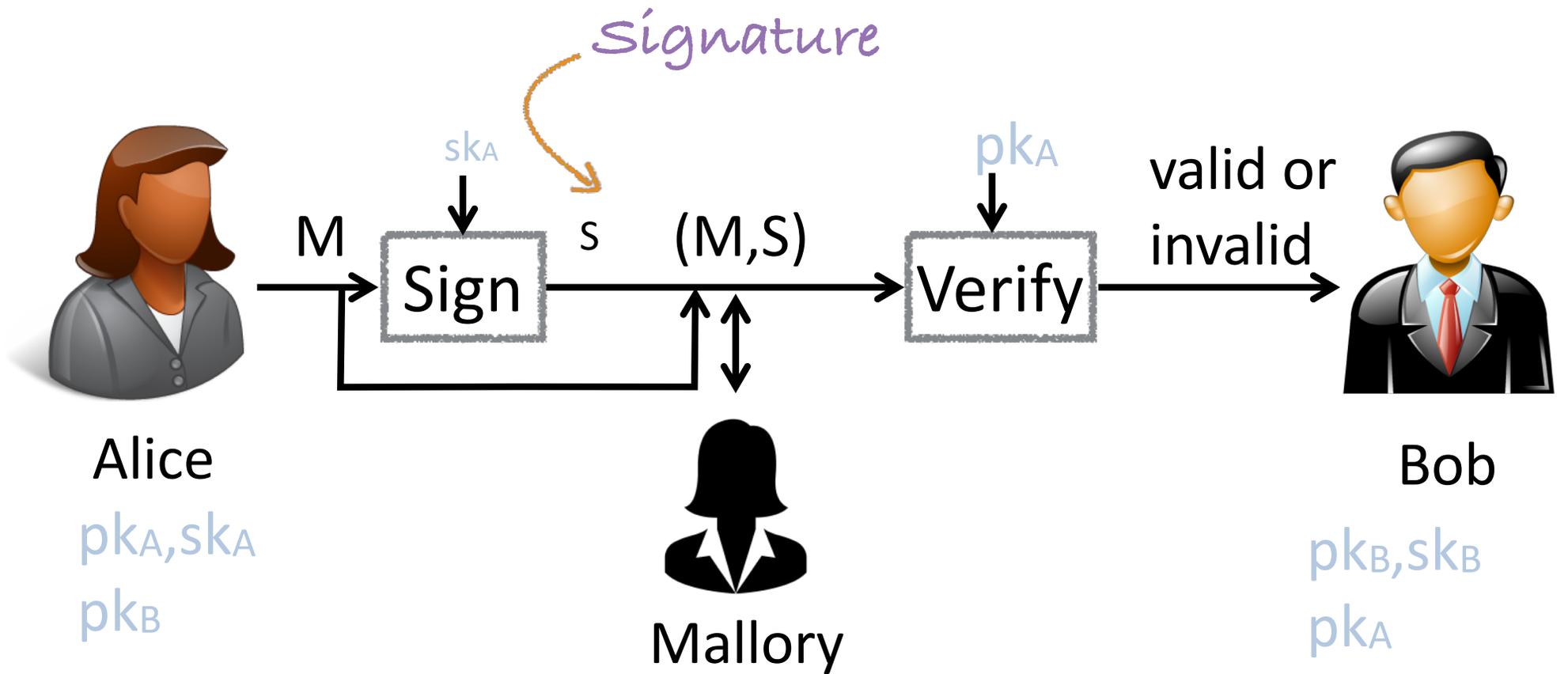


# asymmetric encryption



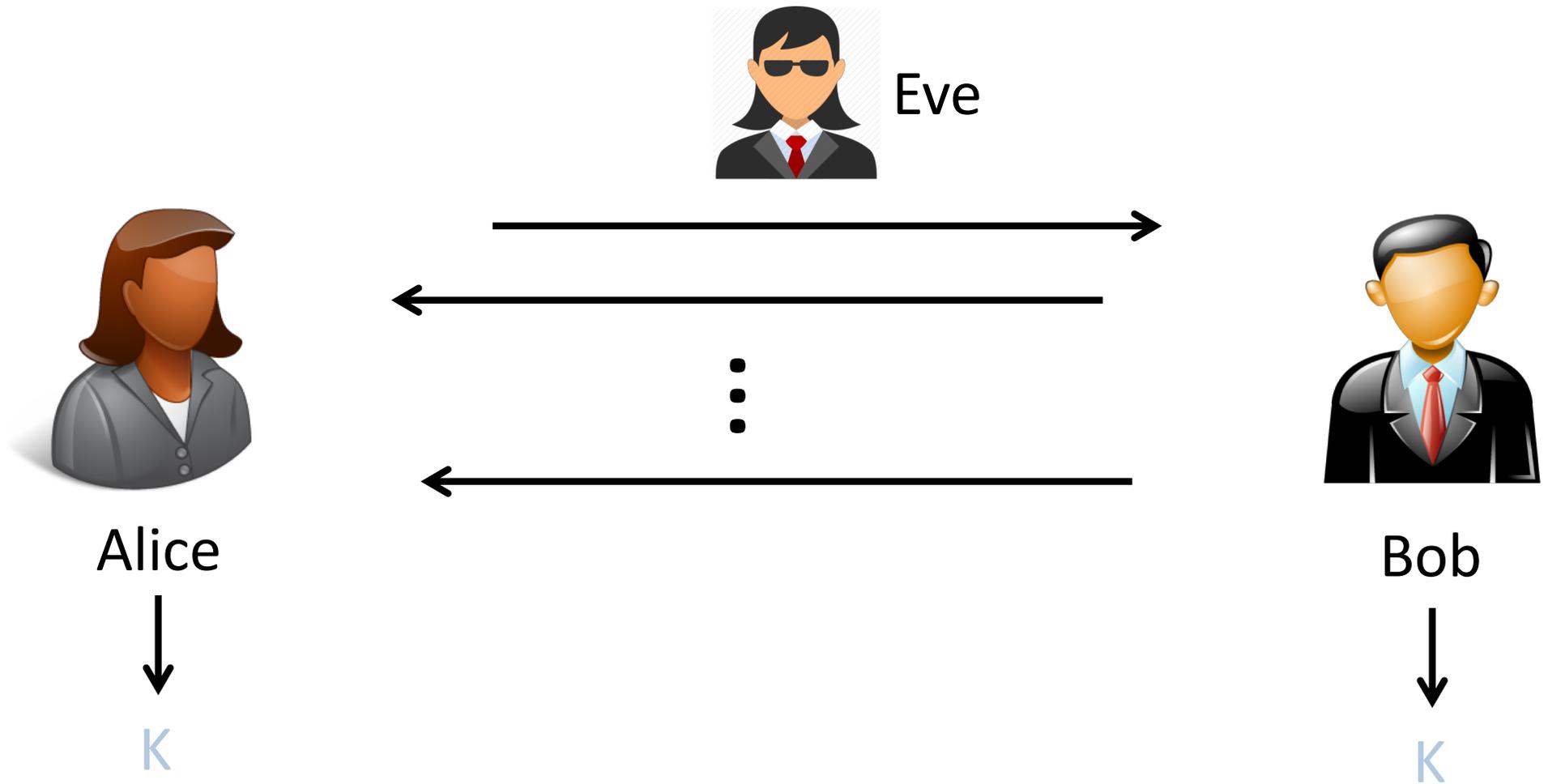
Message Authentication Code (MAC)  
 message integrity & authenticity / symmetric

mac



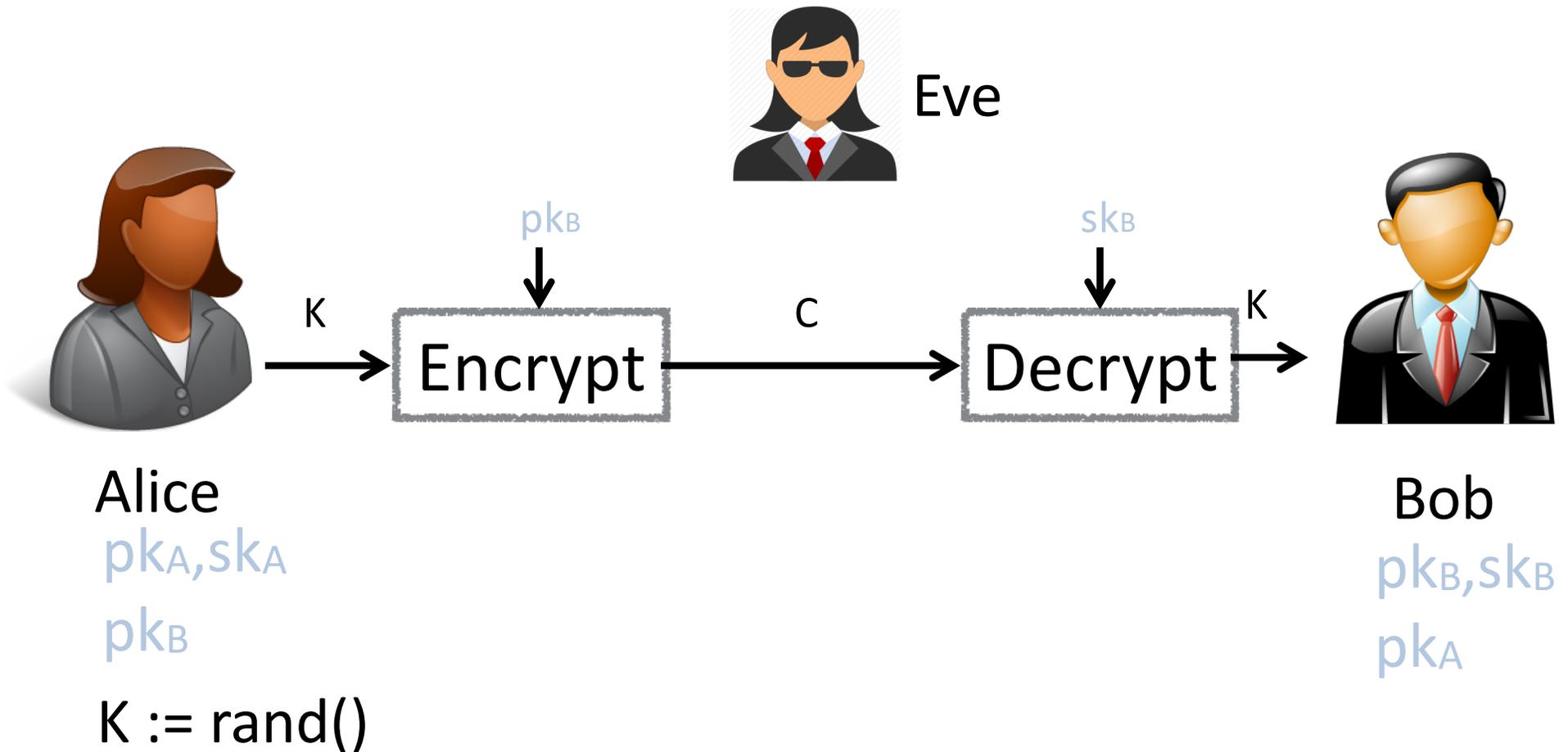
message integrity & authenticity / asymmetric

digital signatures



Alice and Bob exchange messages in the presence of an eavesdropper, and (magically) both generate an identical secret (symmetric) key that Eve cannot know

key exchange

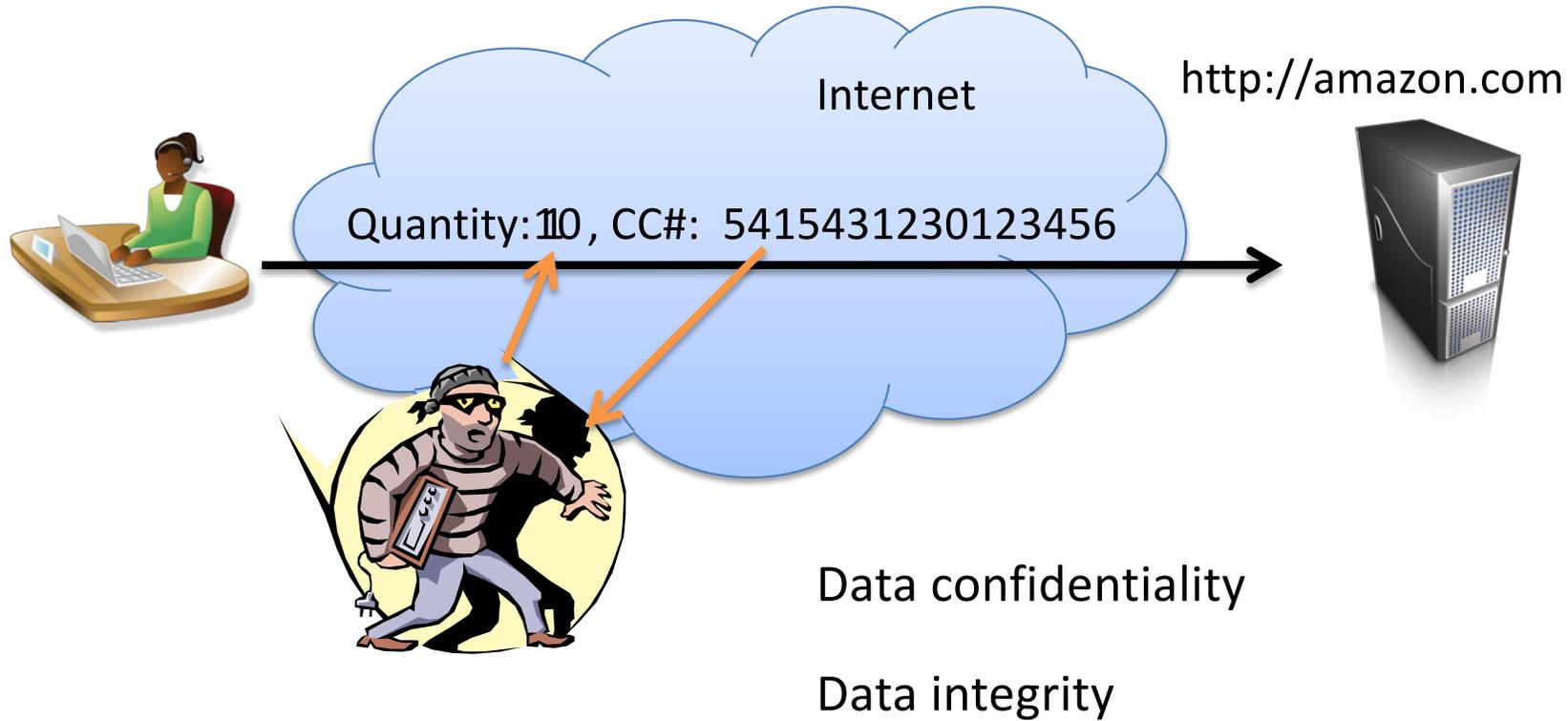


Two main techniques for key exchange

1. Public key transport (shown here)
2. Diffie-Hellman key agreement

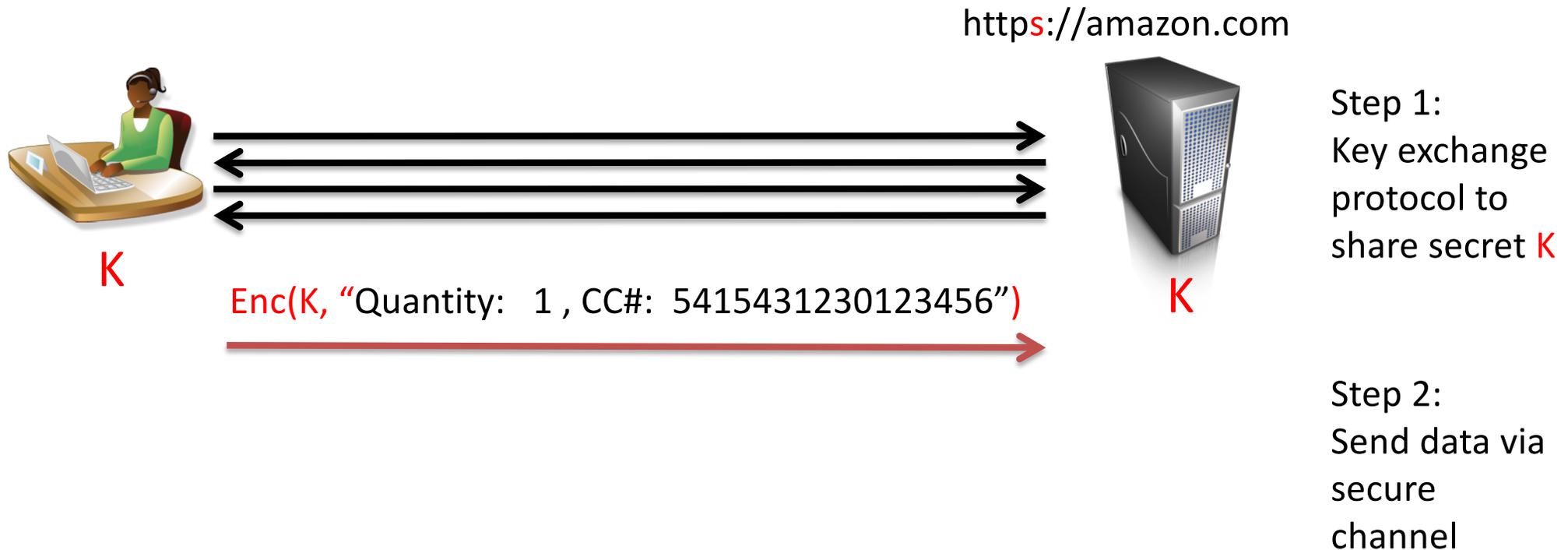
key transport

# An example: Online shopping



We need secure channels for transmitting data

# An example: On-line shopping **with TLS**



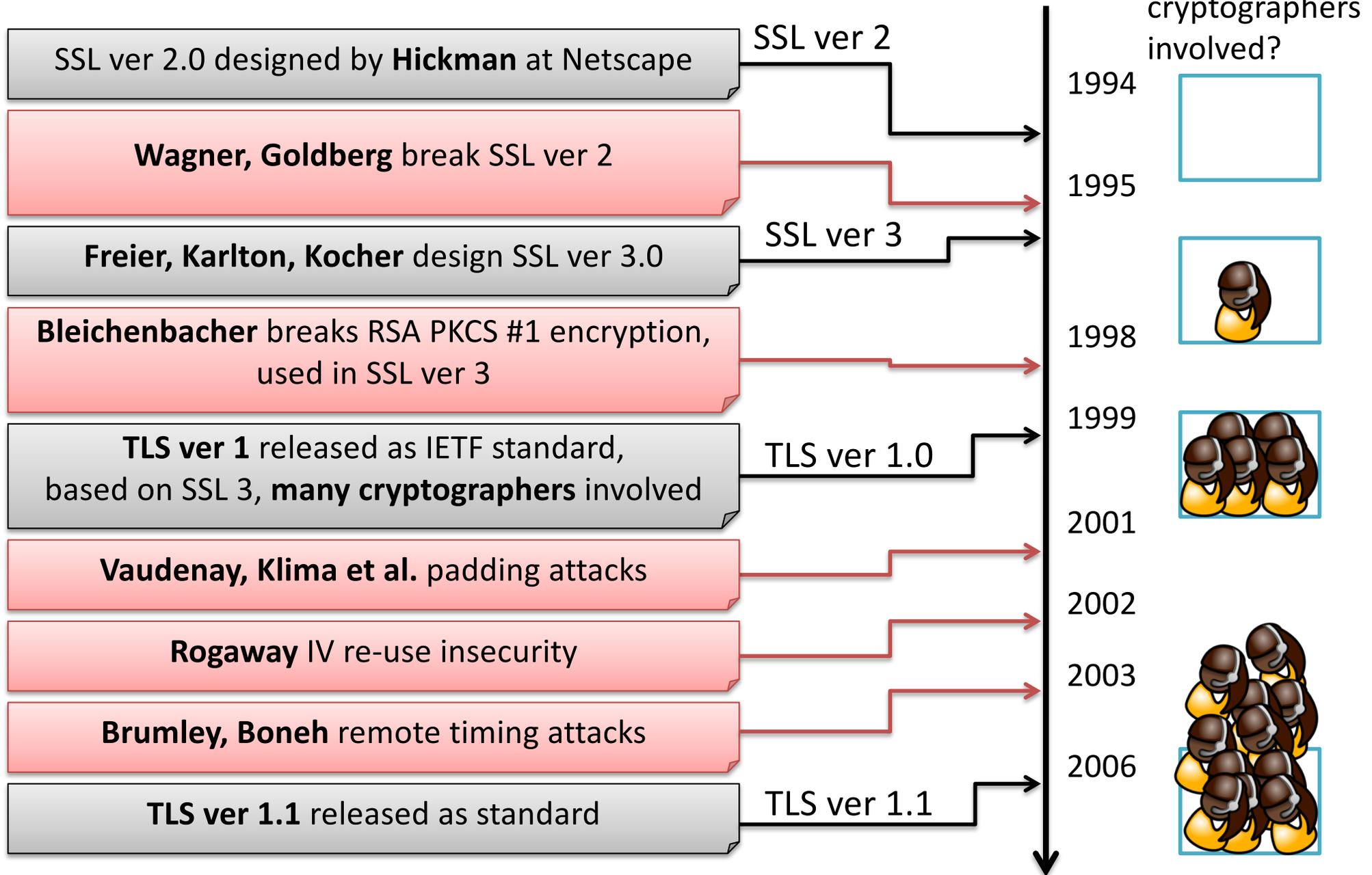
TLS uses many **cryptographic primitives**:

**key exchange**: hash functions, digital signatures, public key encryption

**secure channel**: symmetric encryption, message authentication

Mechanisms to resist **replay attacks**, **man-in-the-middle attacks**,  
**truncation attacks**, etc...

# A short history of TLS up to 2009



⋮

(more attacks and fixes)

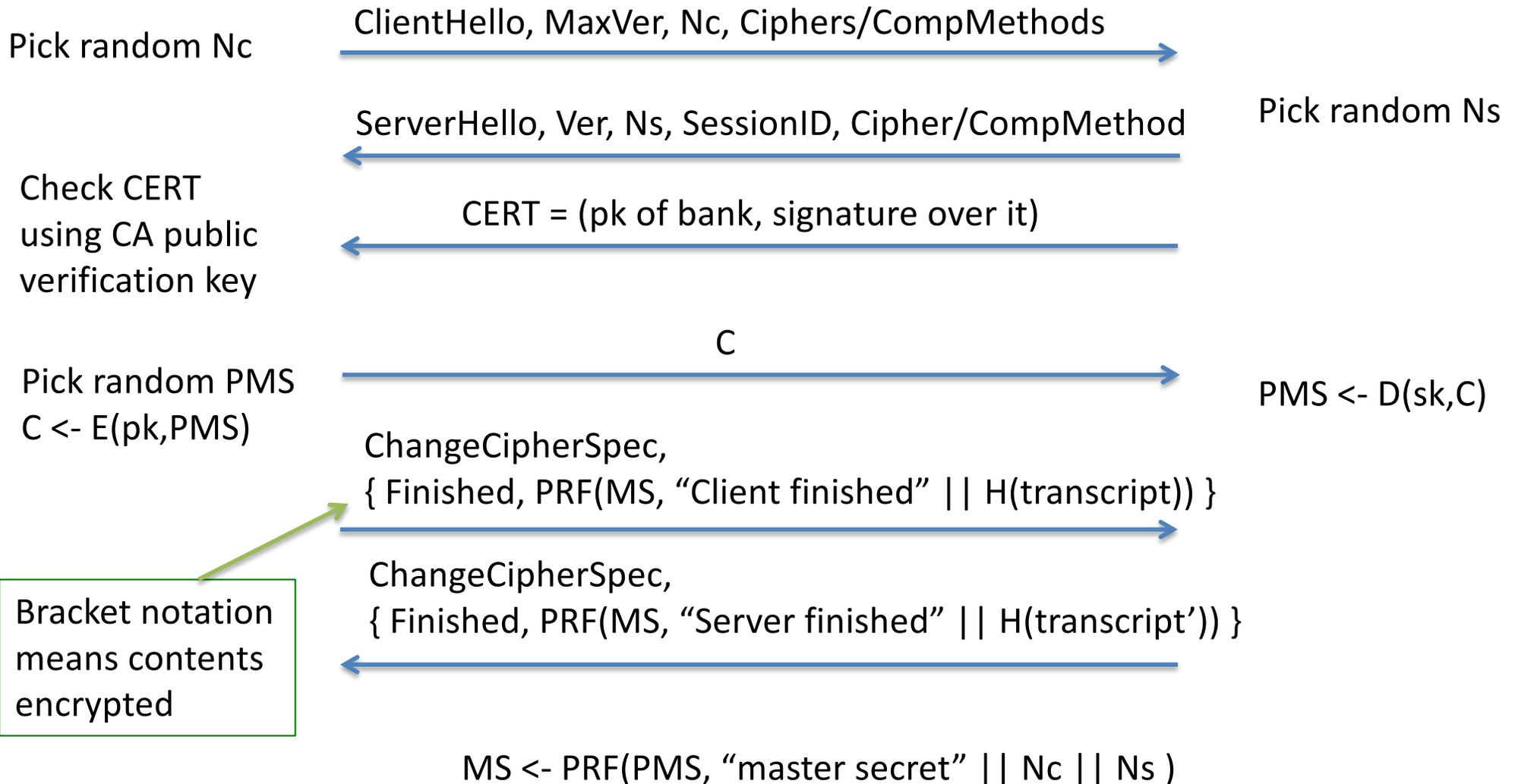


Bank customer

# TLS handshake for RSA transport



Bank





Bank customer

# TLS Record layer



Bank

$MS \leftarrow \text{PRF}(PMS, \text{"master secret"} \parallel N_c \parallel N_s)$

$K1, K2 \leftarrow \text{PRF}(MS, \text{"key expansion"} \parallel N_s \parallel N_c)$

$C1 \leftarrow E(K1, \text{Message})$

C1



$\text{Message} \leftarrow D(K1, C1)$

C2



$C2 \leftarrow E(K2, \text{Message}')$

$\text{Message}' \leftarrow D(K2, C2)$

# Primitives used by TLS

---

CERT = (pk of bank, signature over it)



Digital signatures

---

C



Public-key encryption  
(RSA)

---

ChangeCipherSpec,  
{ Finished, PRF(MS, "Client finished" || H(transcript)) }



PRF  
Hash function

---

C1



C2



Symmetric encryption

TLS was built via “design-**break**-redesign-**break**...”

We’re now at TLS ver 1.2

~~No (publicly) known attacks~~

Did the TLS designers get it right?

In last few years host of attacks that affect TLS 1.2 as well have been discovered

[Paterson, Ristenpart, Shrimpton 2011]

Lucky 13 attack [AlFardan, Paterson 2013]

...

Even for “simple” applications (secure channels), secure cryptography is **really hard to design**. The problems are rarely in primitives.

Many other tools have similar story:

SSH, IPSec, Kerberos, WEP/WPA (WiFi security), GSM (cell phone networks), ...

# Provable security cryptography

Supplement “design-**break**-redesign-**break**...” with a more **mathematical approach**

1. Design a cryptographic scheme
2. Provide **proof** that no one is able to break it



Shannon 1949

Formal definitions

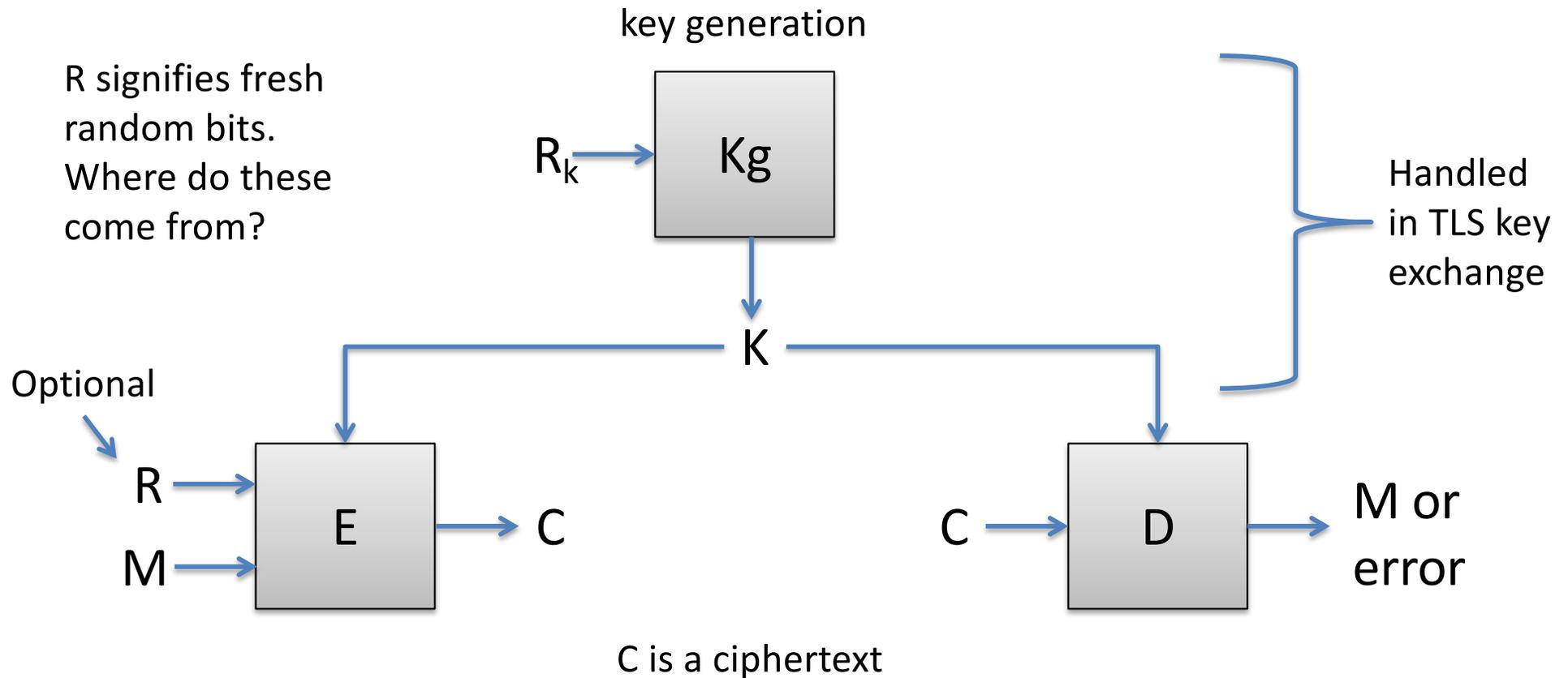
Scheme semantics

Security

Security proofs

Show it is mathematically impossible to break security

# Symmetric encryption



Correctness:  $D(K, E(K, M, R)) = M$  with probability 1 over randomness used

Kerckhoffs' principle: what parts are public and which are secret?

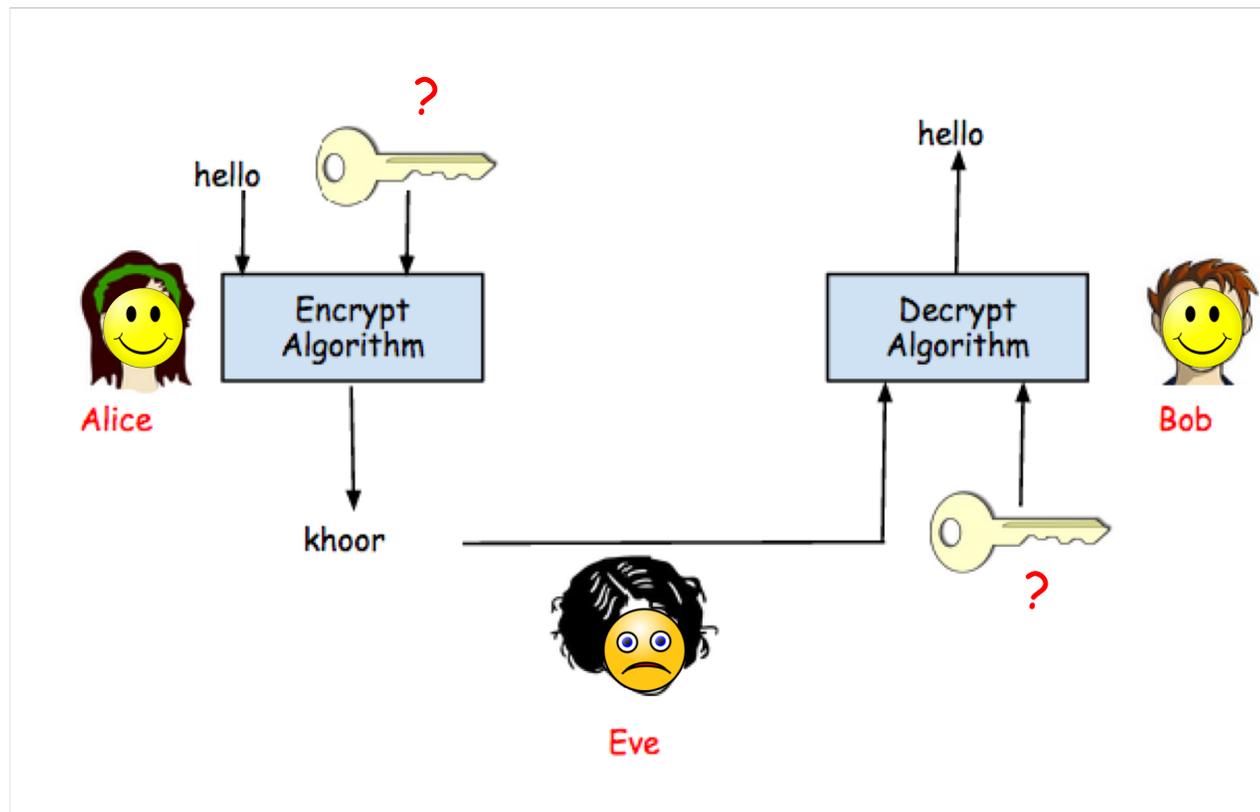
# Some attack settings

- Unknown plaintext
  - attacker only sees ciphertexts
- Known plaintext
  - attacker knows some plaintext-ciphertext pairs
- Chosen plaintext
  - attacker can choose some plaintexts and receive encryptions of them



# Cracking Simple Substitution

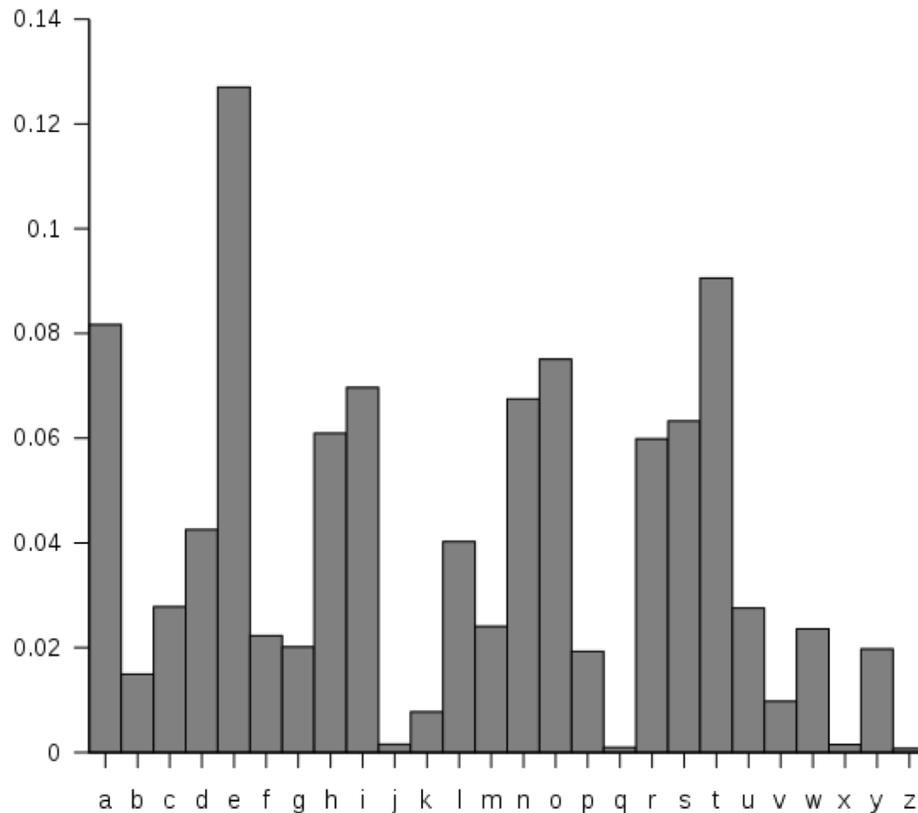
- *Brute force attack:* Eve would need 26! keys.
- That's  $4.0329146e+26$  keys. Too hard!



# Cracking Simple Substitution

- *But, wait a minute...*

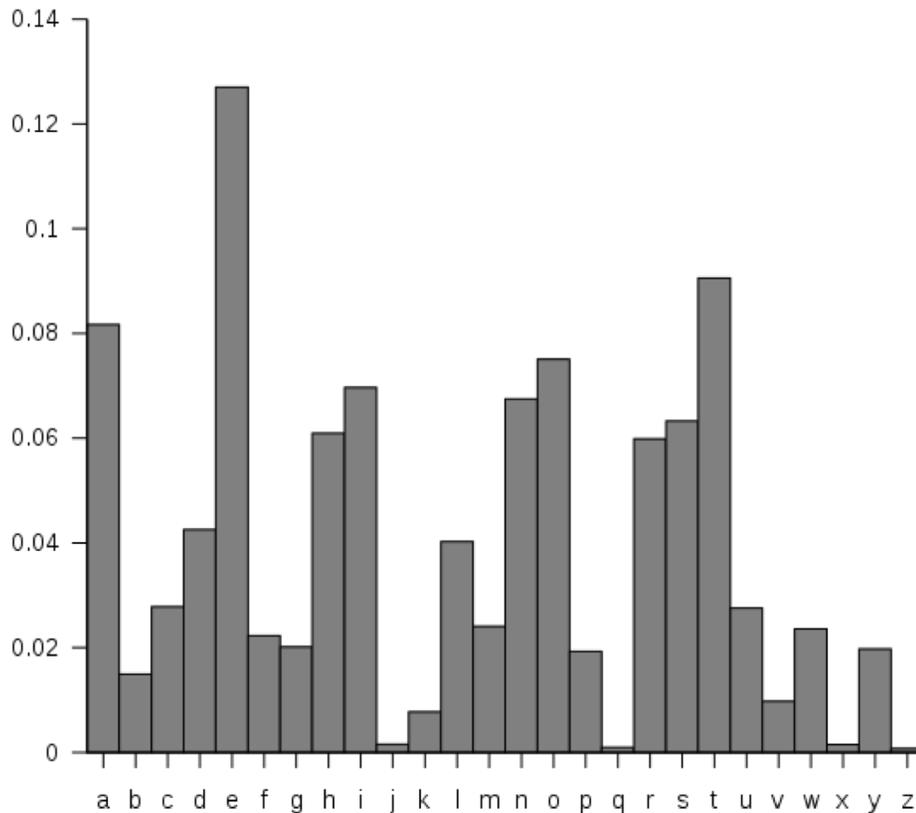
English plaintext  
letter frequencies



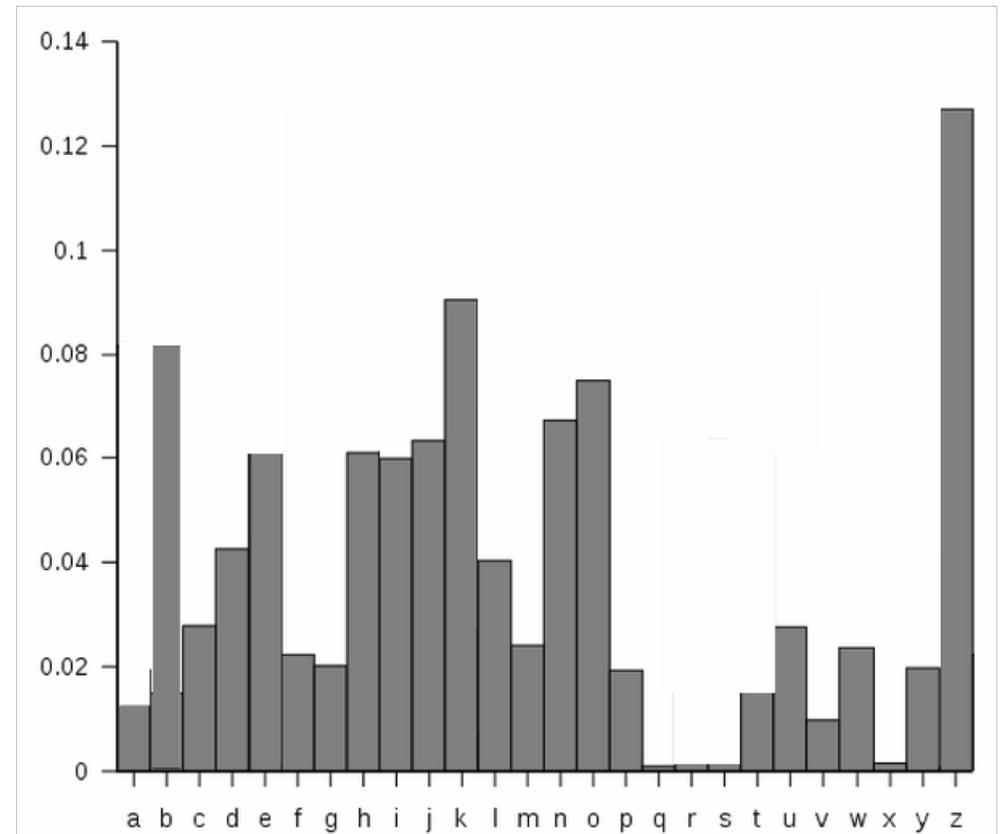
# Cracking Simple Substitution

- *But, wait a minute...*

English plaintext  
letter frequencies



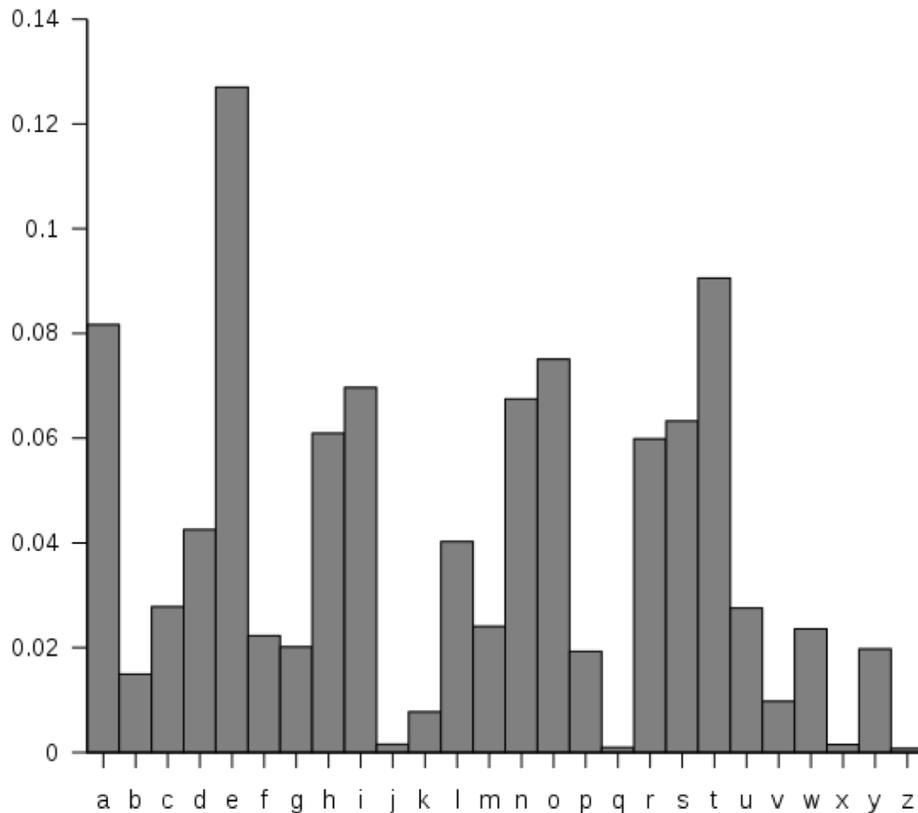
Ciphertext  
letter frequencies



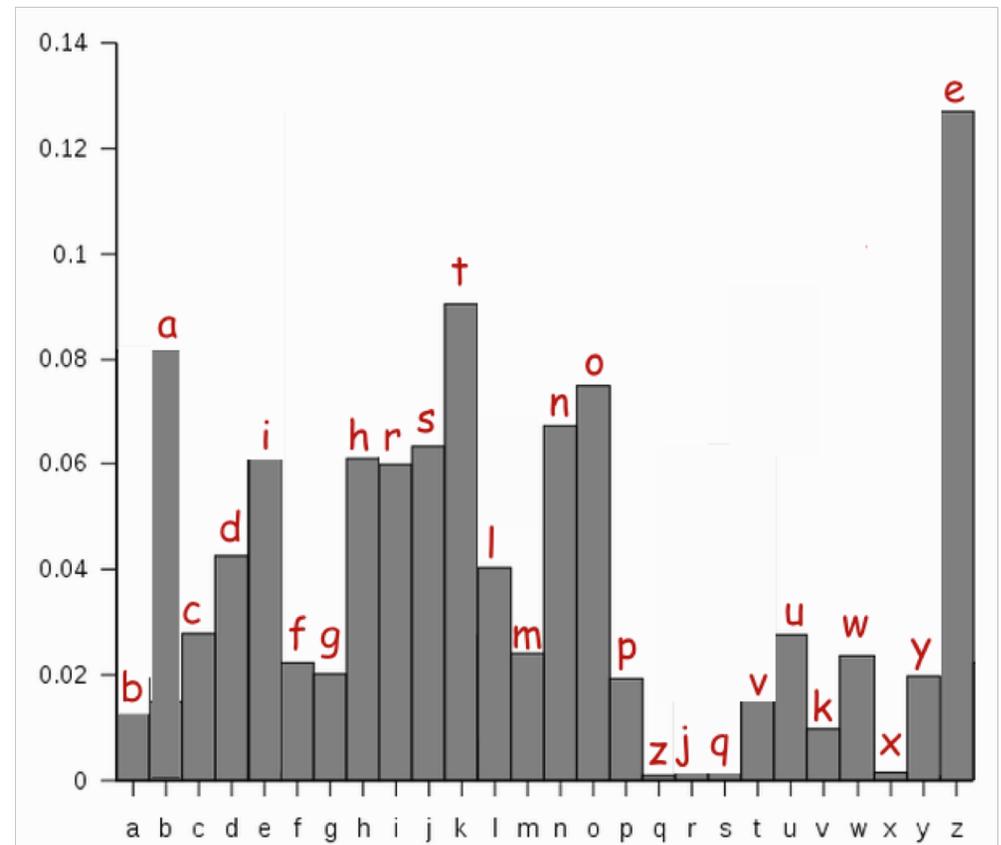
# Cracking Simple Substitution

- *But, wait a minute... frequency analysis works!*

English plaintext  
letter frequencies

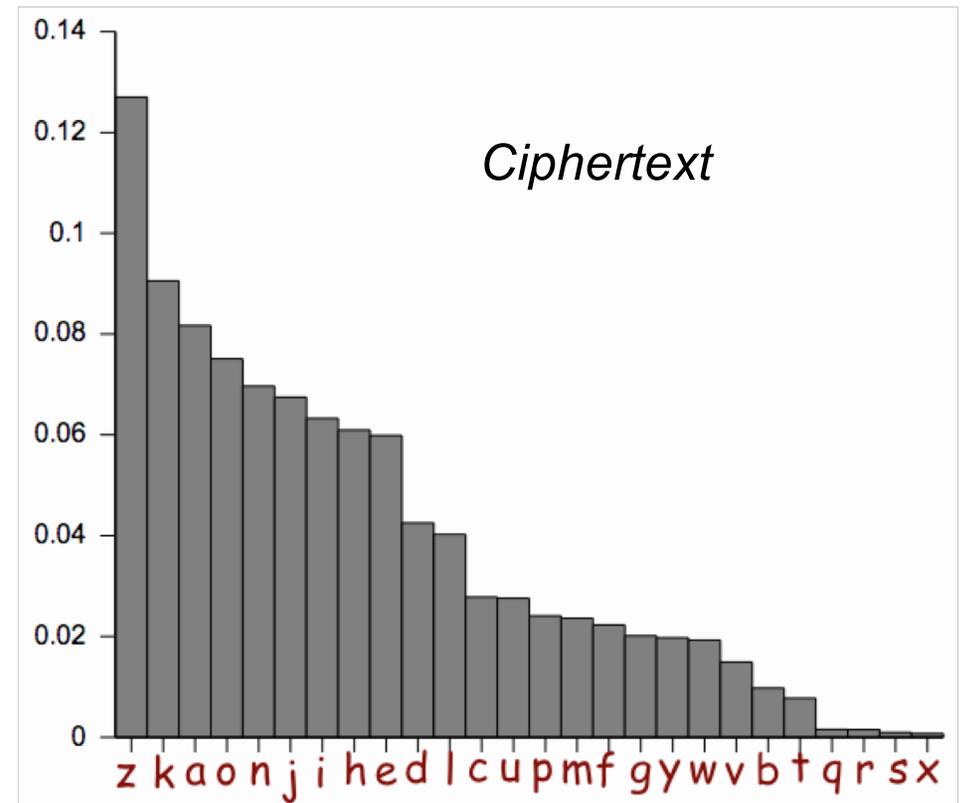
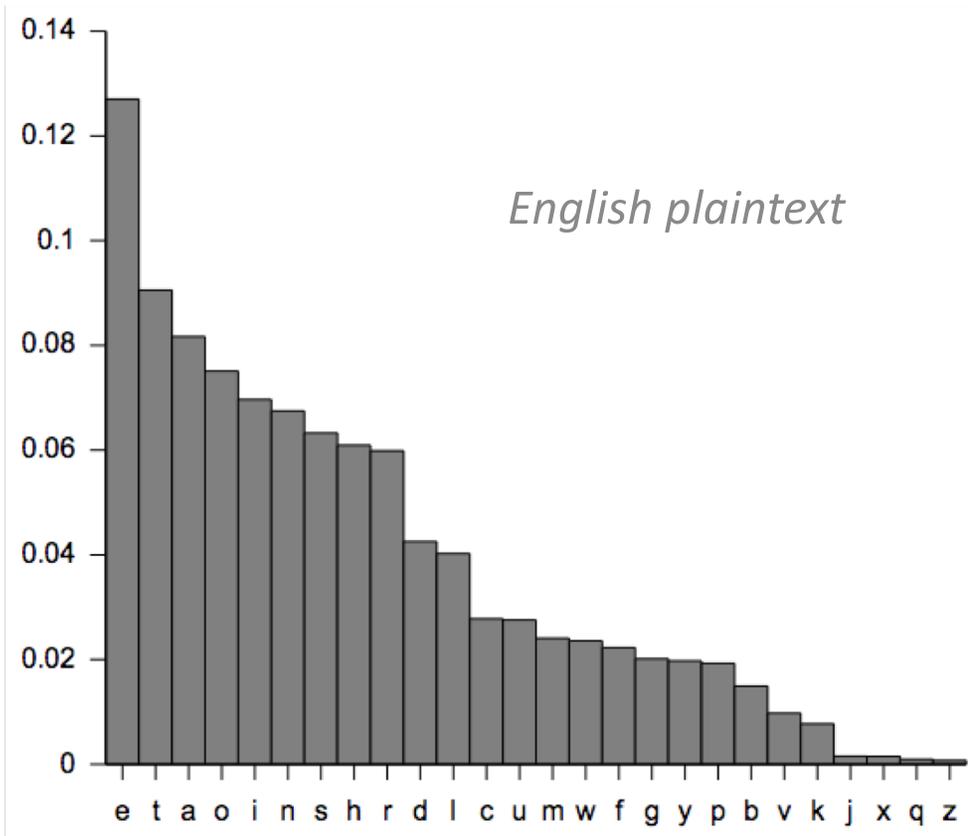


Ciphertext  
letter frequencies



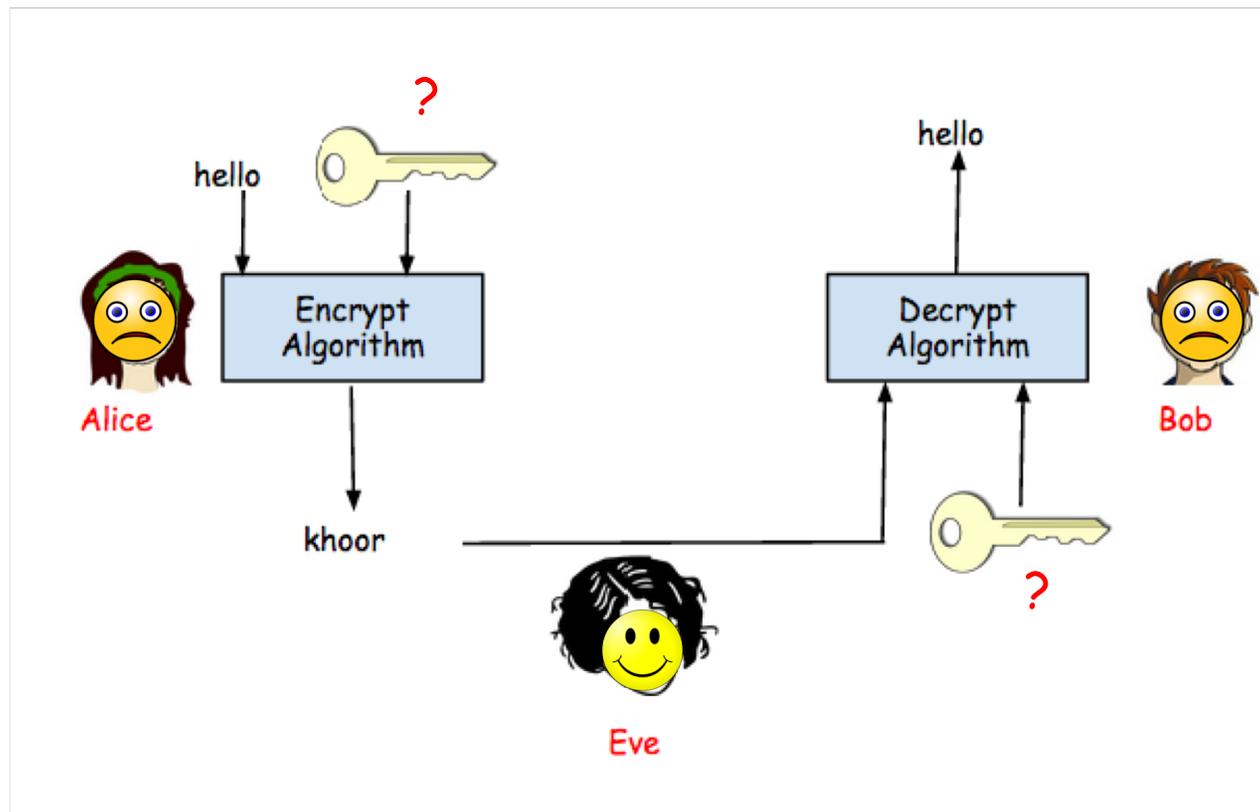
# Cracking Simple Substitution

- *Can sort by frequencies*



# Cracking Simple Substitution

- Eve wins ... you don't need brute force
- *Frequency analysis* will break simple substitution



# enigma

- Enigma is state of the art cryptography developed by the Germans
- Broken by the Allies
- Raises theoretical questions about cryptography



# One-time pads

Fix some message length  $L$

$K_g$ : output random bit string  $K$  of length  $L$

$$E(K,M) = M \oplus K$$

$$D(K,C) = C \oplus K$$

# Shannon's security notion

Def. A symmetric encryption scheme is **perfectly secure** if for all messages  $M, M'$  and ciphertexts  $C$

$$\Pr[ E(K, M) = C ] = \Pr[ E(K, M') = C ]$$

where probabilities are over choice of  $K$

In words:

each message is equally likely to map to a given ciphertext

In other words:

seeing a ciphertext leaks nothing about what message was encrypted

Does a substitution cipher meet this definition?    No!

# Shannon's security notion

Def. A symmetric encryption scheme is **perfectly secure** if for all messages  $M, M'$  and ciphertexts  $C$

$$\Pr[ E(K, M) = C ] = \Pr[ E(K, M') = C ]$$

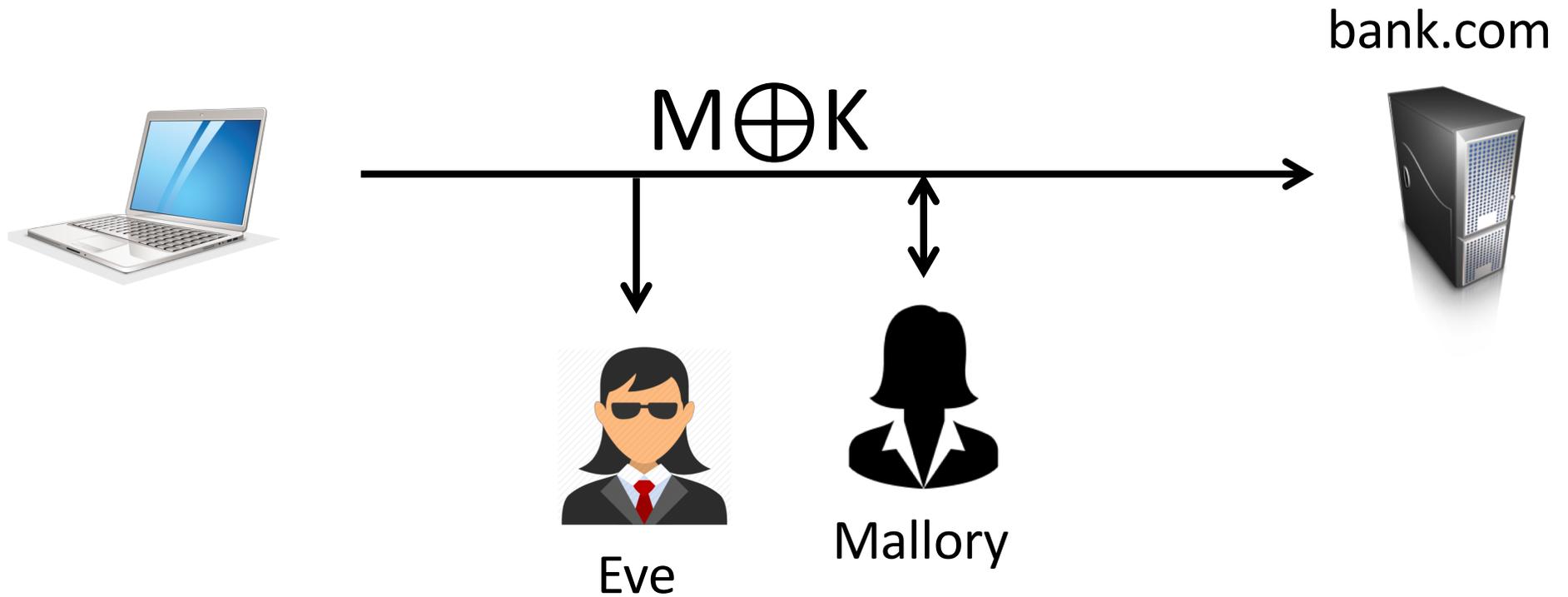
where probabilities are over choice of  $K$

Thm. OTP is **perfectly secure**

For any  $C$  and  $M$  of length  $L$  bits

$$\Pr[ K \oplus M = C ] = 1 / 2^L$$

$$\Pr[ K \oplus M = C ] = \Pr[ K \oplus M' = C ]$$



K must be as large as M

Reusing K for M, M' leaks  $M \oplus M'$

Message length is obvious

Mallory can make undetected modifications

OTP limitations

# provable security

- Cryptography as a *computational science*
- Use computational intractability as basis for confidence

1. Design a cryptographic scheme
2. Provide a **proof** that no attacker with bounded computational resources can break it

[Goldwasser, Micali, Blum, 1980s]

## Formal definitions

- Scheme semantics and assumption
- Security

## Security Proofs (reductions)

Breaking scheme



Breaking assumptions

# provable security

- Provable security yields
  - well-defined assumptions and security goals
  - designers (and attackers) can focus on assumptions
- As long as assumptions hold, we can be confident in security of a cryptographic scheme

# Typical assumptions

- Basic atomic primitives are hard to break:
  - Factoring of large composites intractable
  - RSA permutation hard-to-invert
  - Block ciphers (AES, DES) are good pseudorandom permutations (PRPs)
  - Hash functions are collision resistant

Confidence in atomic primitives is gained by cryptanalysis, public design competitions

SHA-3 competition, AES competition

# recap

- Symmetric vs asymmetric cryptography
- Primitives
  - symmetric/asymmetric encryption
  - message authentication codes
  - digital signatures
  - key exchange
- Provable security
- Shannon's one-time pad
  - security guarantees and limitations

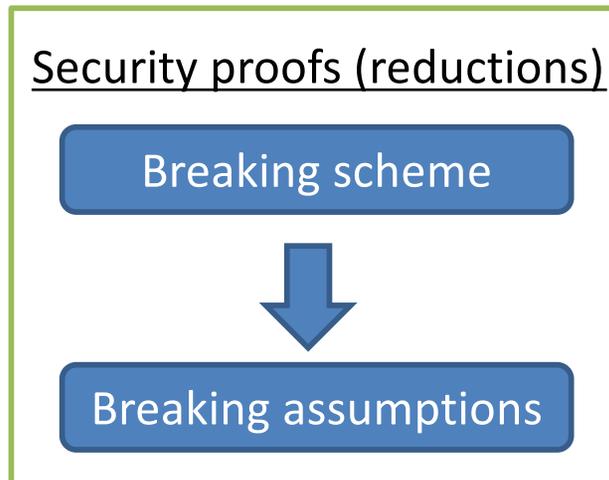
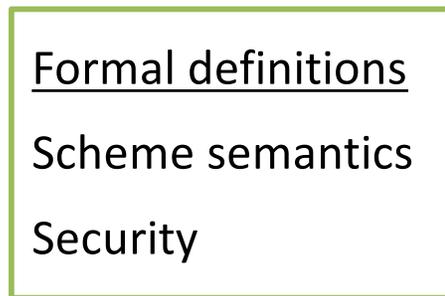
# Cryptography as **computational science**

Use computational intractability as basis for confidence in systems

1. Design a cryptographic scheme
2. Provide **proof** that no attacker with limited computational resources can break it



Goldwasser, Micali and Blum circa 1980's



Example:

**Attacker can not recover credit card**



Can **not** factor large composite numbers

As long as assumptions holds we believe in security of scheme!

Provable security yields

- 1) **well-defined assumptions and security goals**
- 2) **attackers (cryptanalysts) can focus on assumptions**

But no one knows how to do this. It's been studied for a very long time!